

PART II: Final Report for Fiscal Years 2000-2004

(4) Adoption Incentive Funds

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**

Final Report for FY 00-04: Adoption Incentive Funds

Children's Administration has received \$3,448,073 since the enactment of the Adoption Incentive Payment Program in 1996, which provides financial bonuses to states that exceed a baseline number of finalized adoptions. Washington State received money for every year except 2002, and anticipates funds for FFY 2003 for exceeding the baseline of 1,204. The incentive funds have been used to:

- Hire staff to
 - complete adoptive home studies,
 - prepare and disclose records to adoptive parents,
 - prepare the life story book,
 - complete Post-Placement Reports,
 - recruit adoptive homes,
 - refer children and families to additional services such as child and family therapy,
 - improve the data input process regarding the legal history and placement of children, resulting in an identified "look" of the module with release date undetermined
- Purchase digital cameras and scanners to facilitate recruitment
- Contract with the Attorney General's office to hire additional attorneys in Cowlitz and Clark counties. These counties were under staffed and had a high number of termination petitions pending.
- Video tape training for staff, out of home care providers and others, including the following topics:
 - adoption support program,
 - negotiating the adoption support agreement,
 - permanency planning staffings (shared decision making),
 - birth parent mentoring,
 - mental health issues and the implications for reunification with birth parents,
 - drug abuse with birth mothers and the implications for reunification, and
 - reasonable efforts to reunify prior to termination of parental rights.

The adoption support program training is now available on CD. A contracted provider is transferring the other topics to a web-based format so the training will be more accessible to staff.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) adoption finalized numbers from 1999 through present are:

FFY 1999	FFY 2000	FFY 2001	FFY 2002	FFY 2003
1020	1022	1183	1053	1269